

**Montgomery County Commission on Aging
Executive Committee Meeting, May 19, 2016
Minutes**

In attendance

Executive Committee members: Isabelle Schoenfeld, Revathi Vikram, Stephanie Edelstein, David Denton, Charles Kauffman, Miriam Kelty. Tammy Duell (by telephone) for part of the meeting.

CoA members: John Honig (substituting for Rudy Oswald)

Liaisons: Sarah Gotbaum, Elder Women's Aging Alliance

Staff: Odile Brunetto, Director, Area Agency on Aging (AAA).

In Noelle Heyman's absence, Isabelle Schoenfeld chaired the meeting.

The April 2016 meeting minutes were approved.

Legislative Update

John Honig provided a brief legislative update. Debbie Feinstein from the Montgomery County State's Attorney office attended the May 12 PPC meeting. She discussed her office's need for additional staff to prosecute elder abuse cases. The PPC committee sent a letter to each council member, requesting that the council include in the FY 2017 budget funding for a senior legal assistant and an assistant state's attorney. The FY17 budget includes an additional \$147,000 for this purpose.

Odile noted that we were successful in all our budget requests this year. Miriam asked (and others supported her question) whether we are looking at the big picture, and whether we should be looking at issues more broadly, and asking for more funding. This is something we might want to consider going forward.

Summer Study Proposals

The primary focus for this meeting was consideration of Summer Study Proposals. There were four proposals:

1. Expanding and Enhancing Dental Health Services for Older Adults Who Reside in Montgomery (Health and Wellness Committee, David Denton).
2. Exploring Gap Needs That Create Barriers to Aging in Place (Karen Maricheau).
3. Exploring Development of Age Friendly Businesses in Montgomery County (Karen Maricheau, Chuck Kauffman).

4. Defining the Critical Continuing Role(s) of the CoA in the Age Friendly Community Process and Adapting, Implementing, and Aligning the CoA Structure and Organization to Successfully Fulfill Those Functions (Chuck Kauffman).
5. CoA and MoCo Age-Friendly Community Summer 2016 Activities, is not proposed for a traditional Summer Study, but for an internal summer activity. It urges steps the CoA can take to contribute to and influence the Age Friendly Montgomery initiative, and an internal review and possible restructuring of CoA committees to ensure coverage of AF domains. (Isabelle Schoenfeld).

Odile led the lively discussion. Proposals were evaluated against the CoA's Criteria for Determining Summer Study topics, taking into consideration the need for a strong CoA role in Age Friendly Montgomery activities this summer. It was agreed that Proposal 2 has been addressed in the past by AIPC and other work (but solutions are yet to be identified) and Proposal 3 raises issues that are better addressed through the Age-Friendly Community workgroup, so there is no need for summer study. With regard to Proposal 4, the consensus was that the structure or restructure of the CoA is an internal responsibility, and should not involve county agency leaders. It was ultimately the consensus of the Committee that Proposals 1 and 5 would be recommended to the full Commission.

Committee members present identified the following as immediate next steps for CoA and MoCo Age-Friendly Summer 2016 Activities -

- Decide whether to express concern about the county's timeline, which calls for a strategic plan by September. Odile explained that timeline is controlled by the budget cycle.
- Ask CoA members and alumni to identify representatives with relevant experience for the AF Advisory Group and AF Workgroups.
- Create a summer task force to examine committee structure, taking into consideration the CoA mission and goals, to be sure that they cover the AF domains.

Committee Updates

Aging in Place

Miriam reported that Leslie Marks discussed subsidized and affordable housing programs in the County, including those for seniors. Needs outpace resources, and there are significant gaps in services for seniors in single family homes. She discussed NexusMontgomery, a pilot program to provide wrap-around health services to low income senior residents in subsidized housing.

Communications and Community Outreach

Jim Resnick of Montgomery County Fire & Rescue discussed the Senior Outreach Home Safety program. The April taping (May screening) of Seniors Today included guests representing Heritage Montgomery, Design for Living, and Maryland Senior Olympics.

Health and Wellness

The Frederick County Caregiver Support Coordinator discussed that county's program. The meeting's focus was on Montgomery County's participation in Dementia Friendly America, which is a component of the Age Friendly Initiative. The H/W committee is also planning for the Stakeholders meeting. The committee has added some new members.

Public Policy

See legislative update, above. Co-chair Doug Newton has resigned from the CoA due to family caregiving responsibilities.

New business

Rev went to the Chinese Community Senior Center with Vivian Hsueh, and they are discussing a possible roundtable with a focus on South Asian Seniors. They are also planning ways to bring an international focus to the North Potomac Center.

There was some discussion about how better to engage new Commissioners, and to encourage all members to attend committee meetings. One new member attended the AIPC meeting.

Due to time constraints, Odile will save her AAA Director's report for the full May CoA meeting. She did report that Jay Kenney presented on senior housing at the recent Affordable Housing Conference. Isabelle attended that conference.

The agenda for the full May CoA meeting was approved.

June meeting

There will be no full CoA meeting, but the Executive Committee will meet on June 16 (regularly scheduled date). Agenda items will include the Annual Meeting, the Stakeholder Meeting, and the Commission's role and next steps in the Age-Friendly Montgomery initiative.

Stephanie Edelstein
Secretary